Police & Society

Course Description
This course is an examination of policing in a democratic society. A critical review of the various professional and community influences on police behavior together with the social problems created by such forces and potential remedial actions. The major purpose of the course will be to examine the behavior of American police, both actual and desired.

Learning Objectives
- Differentiate between the important police roles
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of the police
- Define common terms and concepts related to police behavior, sub-culture, and personality
- Demonstrate an understanding of current police styles such as community policing and COMPSTAT
- Describe police problems such as discretion, misuse of force, and corruption together with some possible solutions

Major Course Requirements
- First exam: 20%
- Second exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%
- Research assignment: 20%
- Homework assignments: 10%

Research assignment: The instructor will assign each student a particular topic to research in order to answer specific questions about that topic. The paper must be typed with 1½ inch line spacing and with one-inch margins. The student must discuss the assigned topic, answer the assigned questions, demonstrate library research skills, and conform to appropriate rules on style and grammar. No papers will be accepted by e-mail or on thumb drives. More information will be provided during the course with regards to the format and length of this paper.

Required Readings/Textbook
Policing Issues: Challenges and Controversies, Jeffrey Ian Ross, 2012, Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC.
Teaching Methods
Formal lectures will be used, but many class sessions will be devoted to in depth discussions of values, ideals, objectives, and social purposes that underlie policing and justice. Reading assignments will be used to supplement the classroom experience. Thinking-writing exercises will be used. The abstract/critique assignment will lead to in-class discussions. Several video presentations may be shown.

Student Activity
Students are expected to attend classes, participate in discussions, read assigned work, complete three examinations, and complete at least one written assignment. Test questions will come from assigned readings and from lecture material.

Do not e-mail assignments. Turning in assignments late will result in a lower grade for that assignment.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in receiving no credit for the assignment or worse.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 7, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading Assignment: Ross</th>
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| Sept. 05 | Introduction & Survey  
Controversies & Issues | |
| 12    | Evolution of American Policing  
Uniform Crime Reports | 1,2 |
| 19    | Ethics & Misbehavior | 9 |
| 26    | Police Leadership & Subculture  
*Test review* | 5,12 |
| Oct 03 | **Test#1**  
Police Issues | 3,4 |
| 10    | Community Policing & Compstat | 7,8 |
| 17    | Discretion  
Use of Force | 6,10 |
| 24    | Technology  
Collaboration with other Agencies | 11,13 |
| 31    | Doing More with Less  
*Test Review* | 14,15 |
| Nov. 07 | **Test # 2**  
Police Issues | |
| 14    | Training and Hiring Issues  
*Research papers due!* | 16 |
| 21    | Stress | 17 |
| **28** | **Thanksgiving** | |
| Dec. 05 | Future Challenges | 18 |
| **12** | **Final Exam** | |

The schedule is subject to change. Reading assignments may also include handout materials provided during class.